ABSTRACT

Methods (processes) and systems for performing classification of packets utilize processes such as protocol recognition, state-based inspection, decision-making, traffic aggregation, classification events, efficiency in resource utilization, scalability and

5   redundancy. These methods (processes) and systems recognize both standard and non-standard protocols and are able to make classifications in the absence of a precise rule match. By classifying these packets, by one or more of the aforementioned processes, subject to protocol recognition, specific packets can be subjected to individualized processes, for example, routing, shaping, queuing and content processing.